MARINE CORPS HISTORY FOR JUNE

1 June 1918: "Retreat Hell! We just got here," said the 5th Marine Regiment in France.

2 June 1918: At dawn on this date, the crack German 28th Division attacked along the axis of the Paris-Metz road hitting the American 2d Division, including the 4th Marine Brigade. The Marines opened with deadly rifle fire and helped hand the German troops a setback which set the stage for Marine victory at Belleau Wood which would soon follow, although at great cost.

3 June 1942: Japan bombed Dutch Harbor in Alaska and occupied Kiska and Attu in the Aleutians.

4 June 1942: Battle of Midway (June 4-6). VMSB-241, VMF-221 and the 6th Defense Battalion began the Battle of Midway.

5 June 1944: LtGen H. M. (Howling Mad) Smith was designated the first FMFPac commander.

6 June 1853: Marines escorted Commodore Matthew C. Perry ashore at Naha, Okinawa.

7 June 1912: Company A, 1st Marines landed at Santiago, Cuba.

8 June 1880: Captain W. B. Remey was the first Marine appointed Judge Advocate of the Navy.

8 June 1995: A Marine tactical recovery team from the 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit stationed on board the USS Kearsarge rescued a downed U.S. pilot, Captain Scott O'Grady, USAF, from Bosnian-Serb territory in Bosnia.

9 June 1864: Colonel Jacob Zeilin succeeded Colonel J. Harris to become the 7th Commandant of the Marine Corps.

10 June 1898: The First Marine Battalion, commanded by LtCol Robert W. Huntington, landed on the eastern side of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba. The next day, Lt Herbert L. Draper hoisted the American flag on a flag pole at Camp McCalla where it flew during the next eleven days. LtCol Huntington later sent the flag with an accompanying letter to Colonel Commandant Charles Heywood noting that "when bullets were flying, ...the sight of the flag upon the midnight sky has thrilled our hearts."

10 June 1871: A Marine battalion made the first landing against Korean forts.

12 June 1948: President Harry Truman authorized the first women Marines in the regular Corps.

12 June 1961: Iwo Jima Memorial Flag to fly 24 hours a day.


12 June 1961: President John F. Kennedy signed a Presidential Proclamation calling for the American flag to be flown at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, "at all
times during the day and night." Discussions between the Attorney General's office and Marine Corps officials earlier in 1961 on improving the visibility and appearance of the monument led to the proposal to fly the Flag continuously, which by law could only be done by Congressional legislation or by Presidential proclamation.

13 June 1991: Marines from Okinawa and Marine Barracks, Subic Bay, Philippines, evacuated 20,000 Americans after Mount Pinatubo erupted. HMH-772, MAGTF 4-91, MAG-36, 15th MEU and other Marine units assisted.

14 June 1898: Two companies of Marines defeated the Spanish near Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

14 June 1917: 5th Marine Regiment sailed for France.

15 June 1944: Preceded by naval gunfire and carrier air strikes, the V Amphibious Corps assaulted the west coast of Saipan, Marianas Islands. By nightfall, the 2d and 4th Marine Divisions, moving against heavy opposition, had established a beachhead 10,000 yards wide and 1,500 yards deep.

15 June 1944: The 2d and 4th Marine Divisions made an assault landing on Saipan (island secured 9 July).


16 June 1941: The 1st Provisional Marine Brigade was activated for duty in Iceland.

17 June 1898: Navy Hospital Corps established. This old jarhead says "Thanks guys! You're a great bunch."

17 June 1979: Colonel Valeria Hilgart became the first woman Marine to assume duty as chief of staff of a major command (Albany, Georgia).

18 June 1945: Army LtGen Simon Buckner was killed and Marine MajGen Roy S. Geiger assumed command of the 10th U. S. Army on Okinawa.

19 June 1888: Marines landed in Korea and marched 25 miles to protect the Seoul Legation.

20 June 1866: 50 Marines and Sailors landed at new Chwang, China, to assure punishment for those who attacked an American official.

20 June 1946: 2nd Marine Division left Japan.

20 June 1993: The 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit returned to Mogadishu, Somalia, to stand ready to assist United Nations forces in maintaining peace in the war-torn country. Earlier that month, the 24th MEU had been ordered to cut short Exercise Eager Mace 93-2 in Kuwait to respond to possible contingency operations in Somalia.

21 June 1898: Marines landed on Guam.

21 June 1945: The Battle of Okinawa ended as LtGen Roy S. Geiger raised the American flag.

22 June 1945: Okinawa capture marked the end of ground fighting in Pacific.

22 June 1954: President Dwight D. Eisenhower authorized the first use of the first official Marine Corps Seal.

23 June 1812: Marine Lt. John Heath became the first casualty of the War of 1812.

24 June 1847: Garrison at Tabasco, Mexico defended by Marines.


25 June 1950: Shortly before dawn, eight divisions of the North Korean People's Army crossed the 38th Parallel and invaded the Republic of Korea. Within three days, the South Korean capital city of Seoul had been captured. On 30 June, President Harry S. Truman ordered a naval blockade of the Korean coast and authorized the sending of U.S. ground troops to Korea. Two days later, General Douglas MacArthur, the Commander in Chief Far East, formally requested that a Marine regimental combat team be deployed to the Far East.

25 June 1966: In Vietnam, Operation Jay began about 30 kilometers northwest of Hue, and lasted nine days. The 2d Battalion, 4th Marines landed north of the North Vietnamese 812th Main Force Battalion, and the 2d Battalion, 1st Marines landed south of the enemy's position. Caught in between the two Marine units, the enemy suffered over 80 dead in nine days of fighting.

25 June 1918: BGen James G. Harbord, the Commanding General of the 4th Marine Brigade, notified American Expeditionary Force Headquarters that Belleau Wood was "now U.S. Marine Corps entirely." After 20 days of combat, and at a cost of over 4,000 casualties, the 4th Brigade of Marines had proven its fighting heart. The grateful Commander of the French Sixth Army would soon decree that in all official correspondence, Belleau Wood would henceforth bear the name, "Bois de la Brigade de Marine."

26 June 1891: The Corps established its first post at Port Royal, South Carolina, later known as Parris Island.


28 June 1814: War of 1812, Marines aboard USS Wasp help defeat HMS Reindeer.

29 June 1918: Marines landed at Vladivostok, Russia, to protect the American Consulate.

29 June 1963: VMF(AW)-314 received the first F4B "Phantom" jets.

30 June 1834: Congress placed the Marine Corps under Navy jurisdiction.
30 June 1966: End of Vietnamese Counteroffensive Campaign.